

Men Make Houses: Women Make Homes

Possibilities for Virginia Women in Good Roads Building

January begins a new era of interest in work which women are specially adapted to inaugurate and carry on—work that involves reform and development in city and in State.

Richmond women and Virginia women, in choosing the special objects to which their attention and time shall be given, would do well to take a lesson from their New Zealand sisters in the line of good roads building, which is more than any other one thing is the crying need of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

When the Roman conquest of Britain established the conquerors in their occupation of the island, the first indication of civilization and prosperity became evident in the roads by which the Romans connected the different parts of the country with the main thoroughfares, such as the Watling Street Road, which still stretches its length from Canterbury to Liverpool and bears witness to the sound knowledge and unrivaled system of the people who determined its course and laid its foundations. What the Romans did in Britain they did in all countries under their government. Highways, linking their outlying provinces with what was then the capital of the world, became great arteries athrob with the traffic that linked East and West together.

Great Students of History.

New Zealand women must study history to good purpose, for they have used their voting privilege to promote the construction of roads and trails wherever the tide of travel has pointed a need, or a section of their country demanded an outlet. Along these roads and trails, built through their influence by the government, have been placed rest houses at convenient intervals, so that travel in New Zealand is rendered easy and comfortable, instead of difficult and fatiguing.

The women of Richmond and Virginia, who are phenomenal in their devotion to their city and State, could never turn their patriotisms to a higher or better purpose than the building of substantial and permanent roads that will make accessible countless sections remote from railroad facilities, and put into easy touch and communication country neighborhood dwellers and promote intercourse between homes and people now practically isolated during months of the year. Farms that are unproductive because of the difficulties of transportation and of marketing produce would become profitable, if on the main or branch lines of roads kept in good condition for hauling in summer and winter.

Last in Heroic Mould.

What the women of New Zealand have accomplished the women of Virginia can do, if they put their heart in the work. The women who, from '61 to '65, had the farms cultivated and supplied support for their children and their plantation force, and sent their surplus to feed the Southern soldiers in the ranks; the women who, deprived by the grim fate of war of their natural protectors, faced poverty and hardship as widows, and brought up their children in the honorable traditions and standards of their forefathers, can have no reason, through their descendants, to fear failure in 1910.

One patriotic society of women—the Daughters of the American Revolution—has interested itself in a petition to the United States government to build a road from Yorktown, the scene of the surrender of the English under Cornwallis during the War of the American Revolution, to Jamestown Island. The road from Williamsburg to Jamestown has already been completed. When that from Yorktown is finished three of the most historic points in the United States will be united to the great convenience of visitors and State people. Nothing that the Daughters of the American Revolution have done can do will ever reflect greater credit on them than their carrying through the measure which will render the Yorktown-Jamestown road an established fact.

Others Should Do Likewise.

Not only the patriotic bodies of women in Virginia—the Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the Confederacy—would each move in the matter of road-building wherever a piece of road is most needed and will prove most effective; if these bodies, working with the women who know so well how to employ their influence to their achievement in memorials another for which many will "rise up and call them blessed," they can do so by putting themselves lastingly into a highway, will unendingly perpetuate their love of country and of State.

Behind the patriotic bodies come the great army of women at large, possessing unmeasured force and power to aid in all good enterprises. The need of city and State roads sounds in their ears a trumpet call to action. The close of 1910 will bring an answer to the call. Richmond and Virginia women, what will it be?

VIRGINIA WESTOVER.

The Fine Art of Dressing.

Follow with accuracy the model you intend to copy, whether it be hat or gown; coat or wrap, lingerie or robe. The need of the day is for the French designer, to not put your taste in the balance with his own. His is the skill of a master, and devotion from line and color from form alone, will sometimes mean final failure.

It will be difficult to absolutely follow this advice, because repetitions of all French materials may not be found on this side of the water; but, bearing in mind, those who repeat the foreign model will be less likely to overdo, and, unnecessarily, the masterpiece of an artist.

The Making of Bread.

The making of bread dates as far back as the raising of wheat, and there is evidence in abundance that the art of bread-making has been known since the earliest times. The Egyptians, for example, have been found with preserved loaves of bread which were destroyed by fire which destroyed the dwellings of primitive peoples. The Egyptians placed bread in the vaults with their dead much as the Indians of America did and some do even yet, but the Egyptians later substituted mummies for the bread. An Egyptian tablet in the museum at Berlin showing a number of articles which represented the donations to their dead. There were loaves of bread—two round and one long—a breast, a roast goose, and two water jars. "Joseph, who probably ate unloved bread, as he sat at the table in Joseph's house and ate in an Egyptian prison with Pharaoh's baker and butler."



—Vogue.

COMMENT FROM RICHMOND WOMEN

ATTENTION CALLED TO CONDITION OF TREES IN CAPITOL SQUARE.

Letters on Subjects of Interest to Women Asked For—Rules Given for Signing Letters.

Letters regarding the condition of the trees in the Capitol Square and an inquiry as to the proper way of signing notes and letters follow in this column to-day. Letters from Richmond and Virginia women on topics which interest the public through the medium of the press are asked for and will be accorded space with limitations, such letters being limited to 200 words in a great deal of terse, vigorous argument may be advanced in a letter of such length. Just try what you can do and realize what can be accomplished. In the meantime read what one woman has to say about the trees in the Capitol Square and follow her example of frank outspokenness.

Richmond, Va., January 16, 1910.

My Dear Editor:—While women are looking around for objects on which to expend their energy in the way of municipal improvement I should like to ask them why they do not take the trees in the Capitol Square into consideration.

The Capitol building is one of the most historic and beautiful structures on grounds around it belong to the building in every sense of the word. Yet the trees in these grounds are going to decay. Last year a beginning was made of employing foresters and having some fillings put in, to prolong life and repair damages caused by storms and other injuries. But the work after a few days was discontinued, and unless it is taken up again, and speedily and carried out thoroughly, not carelessly or superficially, the trees, which have been the ornament of the Square and the city for years, must perish for lack of care and treatment.

Another matter to be taken into consideration is the condition of the trees. The trees are perishing, none others, or but few others, are being planted to take their place. With the many beautiful varieties of evergreens and flowering trees which thrive in this climate, it would be easy to add greatly to the beauty of the present grounds and provide for the future by planting a judicious admixture of these along with the shade trees, which, being of slow growth, require years to arrive at full maturity and beauty.

Women who have their homes in Richmond and are bound to the city by every tie of association and civic pride should not fall in caring for what, as much as any other one thing, adds to its historic beauty and value. The condition of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings seems to need pricking. Cannot the women of the city arouse this committee?

ONE OF THEIR NUMBER.

HOW WOMEN SHOULD SIGN THEIR NOTES AND LETTERS

"How should I sign a business letter addressed to a stranger?" asks a woman who has taken up the duties of

rather an extended correspondence on her own behalf. "Should I subscribe myself 'sincerely yours,' or 'yours cordially'? Should I use my own name or that of my husband, with 'Mrs.' written before it? And, oh, 'what's on,' 'do tell me what kind of stationery is the best to use for notes and informal correspondence?'"

The answer to question number one in the above paragraph is that, in a "business letter," "sincerely yours" or "yours" is discarded. The best stationery is that which is represented by plain, thick, white note paper, of good quality and put in a square envelope. The address of a city residence or the name of a country place at the top of the paper, in black ink, is often added, and persons living in the country frequently have engraved diagonally across one corner of the paper, the name and number of their telephone.

To sign a letter "sincerely" or "yours" is to incur the additional word, "yours" is discarded. The best stationery is that which is represented by plain, thick, white note paper, of good quality and put in a square envelope. The address of a city residence or the name of a country place at the top of the paper, in black ink, is often added, and persons living in the country frequently have engraved diagonally across one corner of the paper, the name and number of their telephone.

In Abraham's Day.

Abraham instructed Sarah to make ready quickly five loaves of bread and make cakes upon the hearth. Lot entertained two angels in the city of Sodom, and "he gave them a feast, did bake unleavened bread and they did eat." It is to be inferred that in those patriarchal times two kinds of bread were eaten. The Chinese are credited with having leavened bread, but their methods are unknown. Mention has been made of sixty-two different varieties of bread used by the ancient Greeks. They used many kinds of grain to vary the taste and for reasons of economy. The lotus roots were dried and reduced like wheat to flour, as were many other roots. The Athenians did most things well and with them the baking of bread became an art.

After the trades of the miller and the baker were separated, bakers became public property. There are many records of bakers' organizations that have served their countries well, and their deeds have been handed down in the historical records of every country in the Old World.

One of the oldest bakeries standing to-day is in the city of Vienna, and passed since 1555 that bread has been baked in this house up to the present time.

CONSERVATION, WOMEN'S WATCHWORD

HAS COME TO BE THE SLOGAN OF THE AGE.

To Be Carried Into All Lines of Club Women's Work During 1910.

Conservation, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, president of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, says in the January Deliberator, is to be the slogan of the age. Not only the conservation of the woman and the child in home and work, in health and beauty, in education and brain force, but the conservation of natural resources that embody in many sections of the United States the difference between wealth and poverty.

The committee on civics in the General Federation of Clubs is commended for making sympathetic response to the needs of the community, and that of the "city mother" at one and the same time. Civic pride is urged by Mrs. Moore as a proper motive power for important national issues, such as general education in relation to work and methods employed.

Among other lines of work suggested to women is that connected with the abatement of the smoke nuisance, of useless noises and of pernicious and disgusting billboards, of the care of vacant lots, of street cleaning, house gardening, of beautifying school grounds and railway stations, of establishing parks and playgrounds, city rest rooms for the rural community and of junior civic leagues to carry just into the minds of children their share of interest in every day problems of public concern. In public and civic reform so many points vital to the immediate welfare of women, children and incidentally of men, that the work of the members and committees of the Federation of Clubs is a continuous all-the-year-round performance.

Facilities.

Invert pate tins and cover with puff paste. Prick and bake in a quick oven until they are done, but not brown. Prepare a lemon filling as if for pies. Put in the water, milk and when firm and cool cover with puff paste, putting a slight grating of lemon rind in the center of each tart. Bake in the oven, and serve. The flavor. Brown lightly.

Mutton Tart.

Mix the yolks of two eggs with one-half cupful of granulated sugar and beat until light. Roll half a dozen dry macaroons and flavor with the rind and juice of an orange. Mix this with a tablespoonful of melted butter. Beat the yolks of the eggs and add the stiffly-beaten whites. Cover inverted pate tins with puff paste, prick and bake in a hot oven. When cool fill with marmalade or jelly and cover with the macaroon mixture. Place in the oven until the tops brown.

Snow Cake.

One pound of arrowroot, one-fourth pound of powdered white sugar, half a pound of butter, the whites of six eggs and flavoring to taste—almond, vanilla or lemon. Beat the butter to cream, stir the sugar and arrowroot gradually, at the same time beating the

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

Paris Popularity Forecasts Reign of Moyen-Age Styles.

Parisian modistes prophesy the continuing reign of Moyen-Age styles during the approaching spring and summer. French modistes display gowns that have the cuffs and panels of eyelid embroidery, head-dresses of lace or braided net. The lace skirt is made on a foundation of soft Brussels or Russian net gathered to the princess bodice on the sides and across the back. The satin foundation for lace gowns is cut away for a slight décolletage at the neck. Sometimes the cap sleeve of lace is gathered to the puff net sleeves extending to the elbow.

White and Silver.

White net, embroidered solidly with crystals and rhinestones, forms an overdress for a silver tissue gown in a lovely creation to be worn by a fairly debutante. A collar of rhinestones, turquoises and Baroque pearls outlines the décolleté neck, and the corage draping is held by roses of blue and silver.

Gold Brocade.

A model in gold brocade is simply made, so that multiplicity of detail may not detract from beautiful arabesques of golden lace. The ground of pale-gold tissue. The plain skirt has a long square-cut train. The corage is trimmed with lace and fur and flowers does not break the close lines of the gown as a whole.

A Versatile Affair.

A woman of moderate means, who must have an evening gown capable of being worn on any one night and a dinner the next, to answer invitations to theatres, card parties and restaurants, must choose one sufficiently smart-looking to make her feel well dressed, but not too pronounced in style or color to attract attention to the fact that it is doing duty for half a dozen dresses.

Satin Charmeuse.

Satin charmeuse is an excellent material for a gown of this kind, for it has more entrance than any of the chiffons or tissues. The annunciation of Della Robbia blues, with black Chantilly lace, answer admirably for an "around-the-evening" gown.

I saw one the other day in which the bodice was made with a round semi-decolleté neck and a gathered chemise of black tulle. Chantilly. The waist itself was cut out into a rather deep square at the back, but the front lower edge of the opening was broken into two large curves or scallops. The short sleeves were of the lace caught into the upper arm just above the elbow by embroidered bands of the charmeuse.

Lace Flowers.

Brussels lace or fine maitres can be fashioned by deft fingers into flowers and sprays against the soft darkness of a fur hat in a most attractive way. Petals in these flowers are of lace, and the centres may be supplied from a millinery catalogue. The flowers are favored by the lace flower-makers are cabbage roses, dahlias and chrysanthemums.

Skirts of 1880.

Skirts recalling the days of 1880 are being displayed by leading modistes. They are pleated and draped, and give a fullness against which the Parisienne is expected to rebel.

One of the newest ideas for petticoats is to have the foundation of mousseline de sole, or voile de nonin black, with a large pearl choker at the lower edge. They are very chic for wear under velvet suits.

Voile is used in many coats for the little girl. Black cloth, with a brightened with scarlet on the revers and cuffs, is considered very good. One of these models has quite a military dash, with its capes over the sleeves and its broad belt of leather.

Pretty Auto Bonnet.

The luxury of tailless ermine is seen in a closely fitting auto bonnet, which is beautifully soft and warm. It is made after the fashion of a huge baby's cap, with a turned-back top and a large pearl choker.

Soft chiffon laid in folds lines the cap next to the face, and chiffon streamers tie this lovely hood to the head. These are the latest in fluffy fur pompons, which give an airy finish to this model.

Pearl Bandeau.

Seed pearls are ranked among the beautiful ornaments of the winter costume. They are clustered in lines or huge flower-like forms on a band of tulle or gauze, and the whole is a lovely ornament for the swirling lines of hair.

The bandeau passes quite around the head, low on the forehead, and is fastened at the right side, where, by the way, the important motif must appear this season.

Fur Evening Gown.

Fur is creeping into many of our evening schemes, and although Paris has dinned it in our ears, the women of America have been deliberate in accepting of this lovely fashion. Sable and mink are used in narrow stripes, broad bands and tiny motifs. The brown shades of these furs contrast to pale yellow and pinks.

With the dull blues and violet tints, which are lovely in gray hats, the new shades of fur are very dear to the artistic heart, and its softness admits of a variety of treatment. No matter what the fur we choose, it is interesting in its own right to decorate the dress. Perhaps the most novel and pleasing form is the tiny "pouf," which is caught in the centre by a jeweled buckle or ornament.

Soft Satins Favorites.

Soft satins still remain among the favorite fabrics for dance frocks of the simpler kind, and when the question of economy must be considered, there are few ball gowns of a more satisfactory material than this. When the white satin evening gown has served its original purpose it can always be utilized in another season as a morning gown or for other wear.

The short lengths of the new skirts are girlish and convenient to the fair owners, and the padding of the white satin is built on full lines. The skirt is slightly gathered, the bodice is draped and a graceful full of allusion lace falls beneath the top line. A tiny veil of gathered tulle fills in the space between the crossed, hertha lines.

But softness and fullness are the guiding lines, and this is achieved by the home dressmaker. These frocks are simple, and should be well-combed with open arms.

Single Lapel Sufficient.

The single lapel is sufficient unto the day and night for a new long coat.

It is faced with beautiful embroidery and weighted down by means of a long tassel at the point. It is extremely large, and falls from the chin to the waist in a ripple.

At the wearer's wish the lapel may be taken and thrown over one shoulder, so that the tasseled part will hang at the back, in front of the throat and chest will be easily covered.

To Be, Rather Than To Seem to Be

When one comes to count up the probabilities of life and death, one is forced to wonder how it is that the genuine side of people and things is so often lost to sight.

"Esse quam videri," said the old Romans, and they indeed knew what they meant. If they inherited their civilization from the Greeks, they were not without the Greek sophistry. Since by nature, they preferred to build on a better and more real foundation the individual and national character by which they were to be judged and remembered.

But modernity in America has reversed the old-time motto. Now and here society prefers to "seem" rather than to "be." The arrogance of money transforms the poor of to-day into the rich of to-morrow. Instantly the realities of the past are hidden by the pretensions of the present.

On the Surface.

They play the game merrily, American men and women, living just on the surface of existence, accepting the dictum of the day, "furnish as you can," and never concerning themselves with anything more earnest or more vital.

"Don't talk to me about such things as 'stunning and stately among the sick,'" said a lovely, graceful type of American womanhood, drawing her fur about her with a shiver. "Don't remind me of the poor of to-day, and the world. Life is short enough at best, and I wish to forget all the disagreeables and be happy in the way I like best. Let's just pretend, everybody has what they most need, and make ourselves comfortable."

The sentiment of the majority of humanity is echoed in just such fashion. Reality is considered unmentionable. Its bare existence is grudgingly admitted, but its discussion or mention is something not to be conceded. It casts a shadow over the warmth and brightness and color in which men and women live, and which they drink their fill of the goblet that Pleasure presses to their lips.

Out of Style.

Geniality in living and thinking has gone out of style, and there is no use in trying to revive an obsolete fashion. So there is instead painful adjustment of one self to the crowd, and jostling attendant upon an interchange of civilities, politely recognized, but which is not really meant, if plainly characterized, tiresome boredom.

"To seem to be," The American woman, who is kindly indeed in her interpretation of the maxim, Shamming is easy to her, and she frequently becomes such an adept in the art that she forgets how to be honest and straightforward. She shams all the way through, and probably the only thing she does thoroughly is to sham to the purposes of life as when they are about to cease for her forever.

The mother teaches her daughter to "seem" rather than to "be," when she represses her frank outspokenness for the sake of policy. "That is not the way to make a successful acquaintance," admonishes the mother, and the young girl takes her first lesson in the art of insincerity. Who can blame her if she afterward becomes an adept?

Pervades All Classes.

Seeming or shamming pervades all classes and conditions in all departments of social or educational or worldly life in America. Perhaps it has always been the same in life everywhere. Perhaps only changed conditions have brought it largely and unashamedly to the surface, where it stares one unblinkingly in the face and never permits itself to be forgotten for a moment.

Training for the Home.

As the average American woman is essentially a home-maker, why shouldn't her training be along that line. For years the cry has been, "We must educate our daughters." And how few of our daughters are educated into their graves. But is this education enabling them to take charge of a home? How often we hear a girl boasting that she knows nothing of cooking or sewing, but she can read Greek and understand higher mathematics. However, now the prospects are growing brighter with the introduction of manual training into the schools.

The more I study the subject the less I think of concrete education as being an essay for a girl. Of course, if she seemed to have a talent along literary lines I should want her to have a thorough literary training. Otherwise, I would give her a good grade and manual training high school education, supplemented by the study of Greek and Latin, the latter to take precedence over all else—for without good health the rest would amount to but little. During these years I would try to instill into her mind a love of the beautiful, a taste for good literature, the art of expression, and the art of self-control, self-reliance, thoughtfulness, neatness and all the little graces that make life worth living.

When through with high school I would give her two years of business school, or of scientific training, followed by or supplemented with trained nursing. Then I would have her stay with me in the home, developing her knowledge, perfecting her musical education, and by practice preparing herself for the home awaiting her—Bertha E. Williamson.

Worker's Creed.

I believe in God, the Worker of the miracle, the world, with all its marvelous laws of nature tolling for perfection of springtime and harvest.

I believe in work; in its inspiration, its interest, its hardships and achievement.

I believe in giving myself to my work, that it may contain my best endeavor and so partake of my individuality.

I believe in a wise and thoughtful care of my body, my storage house of energy.

I believe in honesty, that I may look the whole world in the face, that I may not lie when told demands my time and so later may enjoy my play and sleep.

I believe in courage, that the hours of the day, from dawn to dusk, may all be a brave attempt to accomplish the given task, though obstacles may hinder.

I believe in cheer, for then does work become the interest of life and drudgery does not weary the heart.

I believe in making and intend to give a helping hand to all who struggle by my aid.

And I resolve that the end of this new year will find my work well done, the world a little better for my toiling and my own life the richer for my experience.—Amos.

LOUISA CHAMBERLAYNE

Silver and White.

A lovely evening hat is of white tulle in a large shape, with an upturned brim at the left side. Curving over the crown is a graceful willow plume which is large enough to cover entirely the crown at the front and sides. And here is the attractive touch: at the side on the brim are two tiny mercury wings of silver tulle. So small are they in contrast with the large hat that they have drawn into notice.

The combination of silver and white is less flashy and decidedly more elegant than white and gold or any of the more contrasting metallic shades.